

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H.4621**

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TO:	The Honorable Robert E. "Bob" Walker, Chairperson, House Education and Public Works Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Kenneth Brown, Earle Powell		
DATE:	April 10, 2008	SBD:	2008170

AUTHOR:	Representative Hutson	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	56-5-1350
SUBJECT:	Traffic Accidents		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

Minimal (Some additional costs expected but can be absorbed)

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill would require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to analyze and publish an annual report regarding each site where three or more traffic accidents occurred during a year and require the Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to develop a program to improve highway safety and provide a status report of its highway safety improvements to the Department or Transportation Commission and two committees of the General Assembly.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Transportation (SCDOT)

SCDOT currently operates the Hazardous Elimination Program to review crash rates across the state and make engineering improvements at certain locations to reduce the number and severity of traffic accidents. SCDOT is spending approximately \$21 million in federal funds annually through the Hazardous Elimination Program and another \$16 million in state funds to help reduce crashes on secondary roads. Since there is no additional funding allocated to this Bill, SCDOT would spend this amount on engineering improvements to increase safety regardless.

The Bill does require SCDOT to provide an annual status report of highway safety improvements and other pertinent findings to the SCDOT Commission, Senate Transportation Committee and House Education and Public Works Committee. This reporting requirement would cost approximately \$1,200 in other funds to prepare the report.

Department of Public Safety

The Department currently collects this type of information and as such it would only be required to analyze and publish information concerning sites where three or more traffic accidents occurred during a year. Thus, the impact of this Bill would be minimal and absorbed within existing resources.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The Department of Public Safety has indicated the need for additional recurring General Funds of the State for salary and fringe benefits for 2.00 FTE positions totaling \$73,858 and operating expense totaling \$22,294 to convert digital map data (latitude/longitude) into a geographic information system to insure accuracy of the data points. One time operating expensing totaling \$21,500 would also be required. The Bill, however, does not specifically require these improvements.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "H" and a distinct "Bell" at the end.

Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget